(b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial action taken by Government in this regard ;

(c) whether it is a fact that under the Centrally sponsored scheme of giving scholarships to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, the State Governments are required to pay monthly sum to such students for pursuing post-SSC technical and commercial courses ; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the information furnished by the Government of Gujarat, some allegations were made regarding siphoning off several crores of rupees of scholarship meant for SC, ST and Backward Classes students by bogus organisations on the basis of false certificates. This matter was entrusted to Anti-Corruption Bureau for inquiry. The Bureau has suggested to the State Government to get the accounts of these organisations fully audited before they could complete the investigation.

(c) and (d) The scholarship money under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarships to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Students is paid to eligible students by the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations in accordance to the procedure laid down by them in this regard.

Expansion and modernisation of Steel Plants

1085. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantum of financial allocation in the Seventh Five Year Plan period for the expansion and modernisation of each of the following integrated steel plants;

(i) Durgapur Steel plant,

(ii) Alloy Steels plant, and

(iii) the Indian Iron and Steel Company, Burnpur; and

(b) the progress achieved so far, in physical and financial terms in respect of these plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) and (b) In the Seventh Five Year Plan there is a provision of Rs. 460 crores for the modernisation and new schemes at Durgapur Steel Plant. There is no proposal for its expansion. An outlay of Rs. 25 crores was authorised for preliminary works of which Rs. 9.33 crores have been spent upto June, 1986.

The Alloy Steel Plant at Durgapur is being expanded and the Seventh Plan makes a provision of Rs.66.23 crores for this purpose. This Expansion Scheme is expected to be commissioned by June 1987. The total expenditure incurred on this Expansion Scheme upto June 1986 is Rs. 59.75 crores against a total estimated cost of Rs. 99.80 crores.

No provision could be made in the Seventh Plan for the modernisation of the Indian Iron & Steel Company. Efforts are, however, being made to explore the possibilites of obtaining technical and financial assistance from Japan for this scheme

प्रेस ट्रस्ट आफ इंडिया और यूनाइटिड न्यूज आफ इंडिया द्वारा हिन्दी के समाचारों का वितरण

1086. श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) प्रेस ट्रस्ट आफ इंडिया और यूनाइटिड न्यूज आफ इंडिया, जिन्हें

हिन्दुस्तान समाचार और समाचार भारती के स्थान पर हिन्दी समाचारों के वितरण का काम सौंपा गया था, द्वारा हिन्दी के समाचार का वितरण किए जाने के बारे में नवीनतम स्थिति क्या है ;

(ख) सरकार ने इस संबंध में अब तक क्या सहायता दी है; और

(ग) हिन्दुस्तान समाचार और समाचार भारती के कितने कर्मचारियों को पुन: रोजगार दे दिय गया है और कितने कर्मचारियों को अभी रोजगार दिया जाना है ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मन्त्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री वी० एन० गाडगिल) : (क) और (ख) जबकि यू०एन०आई० की "यूनीवार्ता" अपने ग्राहकों को मई, 1982 से हिन्दी में सेवा उपलब्ध कर रही है, पी० टी० आई० में इसके समकक्ष "भाषा" जो, कुछ ही महीने पहले स्थापित हुआ है, ने भी हिन्दी में इसी प्रकार की सेवा शुरू की है। दोनों एजेंसियों ने ये सेवायें अपनी पहल पर शुरू की है और सरकार ने इस प्रयोजन के लिए उन्हें कोई आर्थिक सहायता नहीं दी है।

(ग) पी०टी०आई० और यू०एन० आई० से प्राप्त सूचना के अनुसार, प्रत्येक एजेंसी ने अब तक हिन्दुस्तान समाचार और समाचार भारती के 52–52 भूतपूर्व कर्मचारियों को नियुक्त किया है। समाचार भारती और हिन्दुस्तान समाचार के कुल कर्मचारियों की संख्या लगभग 280 बतायी गयी है।

Additional contribution for drought relief

1087. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state what is the additional Central contribution for drought relief as a result of Prime Minister's recent visites to affected States, including Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): The Prime Minister visited some drought affected areas in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra during the year 1986. These States faced by continuous drought situation, sought additional Central assistance to continue the drought relief operations in the year 1986-87. A ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 30.05 crores was approved for Government of Karnataka in 1985-86 for drought relief for utilisation in the year 1986-87. On receipt of request from Government of Karnataka additional ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 7.50 crores has been approved for drought relief in 1986-87. Besides, sanction of additional Central assistance, of Rs. 12.45 crores to Government of Karnataka is under consideration. In case of Gujarat a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 50.65 crores was approved in 1985-86 for utilization in 1986-87. Further a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 35.00 crores has been approved in the year 1986-87 to the Government of Gujarat for the State's action Plan for solving drinking water problem. On the basis of report of the Central Team and recommendations of High Level Committee on Relief (HLCR), an additional amount of Rs. 29.97 crores has been approved for Gujarat in the year 1986-87. Thus, a total ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 115.62 crores has been approved for the Government of Gujarat for utilisation in the year 1986-87. On the basis of the report of the Central Team and recommendations of the HLCR, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 40.05 crores has been approved for the Government of Andhra Pradesh for utilisation during the year 1986-87. In the case of Maharashtra, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 21.68 crores was approved in 1985-86